IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-43. (Canceled)

Claim 44. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting interleukin-9 (IL-9) activity in a subject suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of excess lymphomagenesis, intestinal mastocytosis, overexpansion of β1 lymphocytes, and bronchial hyperresponsiveness, comprising administering an amount of a conjugate of IL-9 and a carrier to said subject, in an amount sufficient to induce production of antibodies which bind to and neutralize IL-9, and to alleviate said condition.

Claim 45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein said carrier is ovalbumin, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, acetylated bovine serum albumin, or Bortadella pertussis toxin.

Claim 46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said ovalbumin is maleimide substituted ovalbumin, conjugated to IL-9 via a free SH group in said IL-9.

Claim 47. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said carrier is cross-linked to IL-9 via glutaraldehyde.

Claim 48. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein said subject is a mammal.

Claim 49. (Original) The method of claim 44, comprising administering said conjugate to said subject at intervals of about 2 weeks, for a period of about 6 weeks.

Claim 50. (Original) The method of claim 44, comprising administering said conjugate in an amount ranging from about 1μg to about 10μg.

Claim 51. (Canceled)

Claim 52. (Canceled)

Claim 53. (Previously presented) A method for inducing an elevated titer of an antibody which is specific for and neutralizes interleukin-9 (IL-9), comprising administering to a subject an amount of a conjugate of IL-9 and a carrier in an amount sufficient to provoke production of antibodies which are specific to IL-9 wherein the elevated titer of said antibody persists for at least six months following immunization.

Claim 54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of ovalbumin keyhole limpet hemocyanin, acetylated bovine serum albumin, and Bortadella pertussis toxin.

Claim 55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein said ovalbumin is maleimide substituted ovalbumin, conjugated to IL-9 via a free SH group in said IL-9.

Claim 56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein said carrier is cross linked to IL-9 via gluteraldehyde.

Claim 57. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said subject is a mammal.

Claim 58. (Original) The method of claim 53, comprising administering said conjugate to said subject at intervals of about 2 weeks, for a period of about 6 weeks.

Claim 59. (Original) The method of claim 53, comprising administering said conjugate in an amount ranging from about 1μg to about 10μg.

Claim 60. (Canceled)

Claim 61. (Canceled)

Claim 62. (Canceled)

Claim 63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is bronchial hyperresponsiveness.

Claim 64. (Currently amended) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition ~~in~~ is excess lymphomagenesis.

Claim 65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is intestinal mastocytosis.

Claim 66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said condition is overexpansion of β1 lymphocytes.

Claim 67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said conjugate comprises IL-9 and ovalbumin.